

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend. This amendment is on 2301.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Well, I certainly wasn't surprised by that, and so don't worry, there is no hard feelings. I will be surprised, however, if some of you don't recognize the need to adopt this amendment. This amendment says that we should recognize the need for a change in our health insurance plan, recognizing that it is maybe too quick to do this year with a 3 percent salary increase. At the very least, we should put into this bill intent language. This is what this amendment does saying that on January 1 of 1987 we go to a comprehensive medical plan, that we abandon this first dollar hospital coverage that is so costly and ineffective use of health resources, and move to the plan that so many of the private businesses in this state and nation are moving to. We give the employees a full year and a half notice. We give ourselves a full year and a half to work with them in terms of their pay benefit package but I think we stake out for ourselves the fact eventually, January 1 of this next year, we are going to get the job done. You know, every year we talk about it, and every year we make the effort, and every year we say next year, but we have never put into the appropriations bill any intent language saying that is what we are going to do. We have all just talked, I have got some floor debate I will bring up later to show how we made commitments and haven't kept them, but floor debate, and conversations, and well-intentioned comments don't get the job done. Maybe intent language in the appropriations bill will. You know, maybe twenty years from now we will say next year we will get the job done unless we do something like this. So all I am saying is put into the bill intent language that January 1, 1987 this Legislature in this state will move toward a comprehensive medical plan. That is the amendment that I am asking your adoption for.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, then Senator Warner.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, Senator Wesely, I am going to vote for this amendment. The last amendment was a good amendment. It was a correct amendment. The only problem is I think it would have breached an understanding and agreement with the public employees, state employees, but